



Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

November 2003



Field Inventories: Field inventories are concluded for 2003. Progress reports are due from the investigators by the end of December.

FY 2003 Annual Administrative Report and FY 2004 Work Plan: This annual report and work plan (a.k.a., AARWP) is required of all I&M Networks. I completed the draft in early November and distributed to the Technical Committee and Board of Directors for review. The 2003 component of the document (i.e., “annual report”) is now final and in WASO. However, we have until January to fully develop the 2004 component (i.e., “work plan”) of the document. If anyone wants a copy who didn’t get one let me know.

Data Manager Position: I should receive the cert for this position in very early December. Once again, if you’d like to review the applications let me know.

Annual NEKOTA/I&M/Fire Meeting: I hope you know by now that the annual park get-together is scheduled for the week of January 12. I have scheduled for the I&M Technical Committee to meet the afternoon of January 14. Potential agenda items include: 1) further discussion with Dr. Amy Symstad on vegetation monitoring, 2) an overview of NatureBib with Wendy Schumacher from the WASO office, 3) final decision on potential FY04 projects, 4) coordination with Fire Effects, and 5) discussion of air quality monitoring with David Pohlman. In the morning of the 15th the I&M meeting will be open to all park staff. There will be overviews of the field inventories, status of the national I&M program, discussion on administration, coordination, and the monitoring planning efforts. I’ll try and send out a draft agenda by mid-December.

Network Technical Committee: The Network Technical Committee had a conference call on November 17 to discuss potential projects in FY04. After much discussion the group recommended acquiring satellite imagery for the small parks that don’t have such imagery. The second priority was to test and refine the vegetation monitoring protocol being developed by Dr. Amy Symstad. A third priority was a Network-wide butterfly inventory. A final decision on these projects will be made at the January meeting.

Vital Signs scoping meetings: Scoping meetings were held in November at Knife River Indian Villages NHS, Fort Union Trading Post NHS, Wind Cave NP, and Mt. Rushmore NMEM. That concludes all of the Vital Signs scoping meetings. The meetings were very constructive. Dr. Symstad, Dr. Troelstrup, myself, and others will use the information to begin designing our monitoring program. At this time I do not anticipate inviting outside experts and partners to a Network-wide meeting until FY05.

Service Comprehensive Call: As you know, the deadline for proposals is coming up soon. I’ve offered to facilitate a multi-park prairie dog project. If there are other projects you have in mind that the I&M Program can assist with please let me know.